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FROM: CHASE, GORDON
TO : BUNDY, MR.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~EYES ONLY~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1965

I am
MFB

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: FBI/Secret Service Agreement

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NE letter 9/10/76, Treasury letter 3/4/1977
By AMG, NARS, Date 5/10/1977

1. Attached, for your clearance, is a draft agreement between the FBI and the Secret Service concerning Presidential protection; it is acceptable to both the FBI and the Secret Service.

2. One point of interest appears on Page 2. Under the agreement, the FBI, in connection with its responsibility to investigate subversive organizations, "... will be alert to and promptly notify the Secret Service of any information indicating a possible plot against the person of the President." It can be argued that more active verbiage would be preferable, which would make it the responsibility of the FBI to actively dig for information regarding plots in subversive organizations. The FBI, however, resists more active wording on the grounds (a) that the FBI would have to redirect its whole investigative effort with respect to subversive organizations to comply with more active verbiage and (b) that such a large-scale redirection of effort is not called for.

Another point demonstrates the same sort of problem. In the last sentence of Paragraph 2 on Page 2, it is made the responsibility of the Secret Service to initiate action in the neutralization of a plot. While both the FBI and the Secret Service want it this way, it can be argued that the initiative should be given to the FBI. (In practical terms, it would seem to make little difference - in the event of a plot against the President, the Secret Service would undoubtedly and quickly call on the FBI for assistance, and the FBI would undoubtedly and quickly respond.)

3. I think we should approve the agreement. First, the FBI and the Secret Service, who are the ones who have to live with it, favor the agreement. We should give it a chance to work; if it doesn't, we can revise it. Second, the agreement is a long step in the right direction. For one thing, some good work has been done in the area of defining criteria for the identification of persons dangerous to the President. For another thing, the process of hammering out the agreement has done much to improve coordination between the Secret Service and the FBI at all levels. Third, in practice, I don't think we need worry excessively about the general FBI reluctance to dive deeply into the field of Presidential protection. The FBI is a good organization, is now very sensitive to the high-level interest in Presidential protection, and, I think, will turn in a good performance. In a related regard, I worry far more about the performance of the Secret Service in doing its job; but the core of the problem is the supervision of the Secret Service and, as such, is beyond the scope of this agreement.

4. Does the agreement look O.K. to you?

P.S. Dillon & Katzenbach approve. McLan hasn't arrived yet. Gordon Chase

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